



MontCAS
Montana Comprehensive Assessment
System
April 2007 Newsletter

Spring 2007 MontCAS Testing Schedule

February 12 – March 28, 2007 Testing is Complete	CRT-Alternate, Grades 3-8 and 10, Reading and Math
March 5 – March 28, 2007 Testing is Complete	CRT, Grades 3-8 and 10, Reading and Math; Grades 4, 8, and 10, Science Field Test
March 22 – April 12, 2007 Testing in Progress	NRT and NRT-Alternate Assessment Scales, Grades 4, 8, and 11, Language Arts, Reading, Math, Social Studies, and Science



Tentative 2007-2008 Testing Schedule

October 23- November 23, 2007 New Tentative Date	English Language Proficiency Assessment for students identified as Limited English Proficient (LEP) in grades K-12.
February 11 – March 26, 2008 New Tentative Date	CRT-Alternate, Grades 3-8 and 10, Reading and Math (It is recommended that the first week of this window be used for training, becoming familiar with the materials, and organizing the testing.)
March 3 – March 26, 2008 New Tentative Date	CRT, Grades 3-8 and 10, Reading and Math; Grades 4, 8, and 10 in Science
Unknown at this time	NRT and NRT-Alternate Assessment Scales, Grades 4, 8, and 11, Language Arts, Reading, Math, Social Studies, and Science



The Assessment ToolKit

OPI will host the second statewide assessment conference in Helena on April 23 and 24, 2007.

Information about the conference is online

<http://www.opi.mt.gov/assessconf/>

Registration is still open. Please consider attending.

And as in 2006, sixty education majors from colleges and universities in Montana may have their registration fees waived by registering online. In addition to students in classes on campus, many education students are in schools student teaching or interning. This is a good opportunity for all of them to learn more about assessment. Please encourage these students to take advantage of this opportunity.

Regular registration and student registration are online at <https://rn02.msu.montana.edu/opi/>

Keynote Speakers

Two keynote speakers will highlight the conference. Attorney Steve Winnick is a nationally-recognized expert in educational policy including education privacy issues. Kati Haycock, the director of the Education Trust, is a national leader in student achievement issues. More information on the keynote speakers at the assessment conference website.

<http://www.opi.mt.gov/assessconf/keynote.html>

Agenda

The final agenda is now online. It includes an array of sessions including many sessions presented by Montana educators. The direct link to the agenda is

<http://www.opi.mt.gov/PDF/Assessment/conf/07Agenda.pdf>

Save the Date

**Tentative Dates--Assessment Conference
Spring 2008: April 28 and 29, 2008, Helena**

Testing Contractor Contact Information

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✚ **MontCAS, Phase 2, the CRT and the CRT-Alternate—Measured Progress, Inc.**

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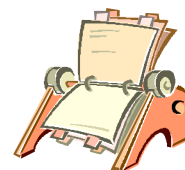
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✚ **MontCAS, the English Language Proficiency (ELP)—Questar Assessment Inc. (previously named TASA, Inc.)**

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AIM

All public school student demographic information for the CRT and the CRT-Alternate will be collected through the AIM (Achievement in Montana) System during the Program Participation and Attendance Collections. This data also will be used to determine sub-groups for calculating AYP.

The deadline for entering demographic information for the Program Participation Collection in AIM is **Sunday, April 15**. However, OPI encourages and asks schools to enter their data well ahead of that date. This will allow the schools time to verify their counts and OPI time to work on data clean-up as well.

More information is online <http://www.opi.mt.gov/PDF/Assessment/CRT/TA/07Datatips.pdf>

Questions about MontCAS Prep

Several systems and schools have reported receiving a sample workbook and catalog for *MontCAS Prep* published by Queue, Inc. The Office of Public Instruction was not consulted about these publications. They are written and copyrighted by Queue, Inc. Riverside Publishing Company and Measured Progress, the MontCAS testing contractors, did not contribute to these publications.

MontCAS, Phase 1

Important Dates



March 22 – April 12, 2007	Testing window for grades 4, 8, and 11 NRT and NRT-Alternate Assessment Scales
April 13, 2007	Deadline for sending materials to Riverside
April 4 – May 9, 2007	Systems will receive Stage 1 reports. This shipment includes all the reports except Group Customized Skills Report, by system. These cannot be reported until all systems have been scored and reported. Systems will receive these in June.
May 9 – 15, 2007	Report review period. Contact Riverside or OPI regarding discrepancies on your reports.



Frequently asked Questions about NRT (Iowa Tests) Test Administration

Q: Page 18 of the *2007 Montana Guide for Test Coordinators* has a section, "Destroying Testing Materials." What does this mean?

A: The contract with Riverside Publishing Company for the Iowa Tests in grades 4, 8, and 11 expires at the end of the spring 2007 testing year. The testing materials will no longer be needed for grades 4, 8, and 11 and may be destroyed. It is hoped that materials will be recycled. Below are guidelines:

Material for Grades 4, 8, and 11	Disposal
Unused answer documents	Recycle
Unused practice tests	Recycle
Directions for Administration	Recycle
Montana Guide for Test Coordinators	Recycle
Test Booklets	Shred or tear and recycle
Training CDs	Recycle
Data CDs	<p>Since 2001, data disks have been provided to schools and systems when requested. If the data from the disks has been transferred to school or system data systems, they may no longer be needed. If that is the case, steps must be taken to insure that the data is no longer accessible before disposing of them. Steve Meredith, Internet Services Bureau Chief at the Office of Public Instruction, offers the following suggestions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wear safety glasses  and heavy gloves.  Away from others, snap the CD in half. Dispose of the pieces where they cannot accidentally cut someone or something. 2. Some shredders have a CD shredder. You can use that. Please follow the directions that accompany the shredder.

Q: Do we need to bubble the State Student ID on the Iowa test answer document?

A: No. You do not need to bubble it on the answer document. Instead please follow the same procedures as used in the past and outlined in the *2007 Montana Guide for Test Coordinators*. Some systems purchase barcode labels from Riverside. They, too, should follow past procedures and those outlined in the *Guide*.



NOTE: If you have already bubbled, the State Student ID, you do not need to erase.

Q: Are accommodations allowed for all students on the Iowa Tests?

A: No. Accommodations on the Iowa Tests are allowed only for students with IEP, LEP, or 504 plans. Please see pages 6-9 in the *2007 Montana Guide for Test Coordinators* for information on accommodations.

Q: Are calculators allowed on the Iowa Tests?

A: Only when specified in the current IEP.

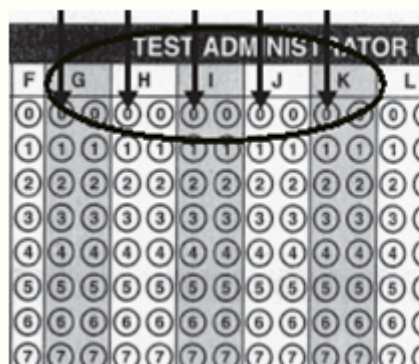
Please advise your test administrators to ignore the directions for calculator use found in the *Directions for Administration* published by Riverside Publishing as they do not apply to the Montana administration of the Iowa Tests.



It is recommended that you copy page 9 of the *2007 Iowa Tests Montana Guide for Test Coordinators* (it has a yellow cover) for all test administrators. It has specific information about calculators and the Montana administration of the Iowa Tests.

Q: Do we send the Alternate Assessment Scale booklet to Riverside with the other answer documents?

A: No. The scores from the Alternate Assessment Scales are transferred to the regular answer document.



Row	Subtest
G	Communication Arts - Reading score
H	Communication Arts - Writing score
I	Mathematics score
J	Social Studies score
K	Science score

See pages 25 and 29 of the 2007 *Guide*. Information about transferring scores is also in the PowerPoint provided on the CD. The PowerPoint is online.

<http://www.opi.mt.gov/PDF/Assessment/NRT/07NRT.ppt>



It is recommended that the booklet be placed in the student's cumulative file as documentation.

Q: In the Alternate Assessment Scale booklet, it refers to a student questionnaire. Where is it?

A: There are no student questionnaires or surveys this year.

MontCAS Phase 2

Return dates for CRT and CRT-Alternate

Date	Event
April 2, 2007	Final UPS pickup of used CRT Student Response Booklets and CRT-Alternate Student Response Booklets and CRT-Alternate materials specified for return in a white envelope for each student (if a pickup was not scheduled with UPS before March 28).
April 6, 2007	Final UPS pickup of all other test materials (if a pickup was not scheduled with UPS before March 28).

Test Development Projects in May and July

Thank you for the enthusiastic response to the bias and item reviews in May and the item selection in July for the Reading and Math CRT, grades 3-8 and 10, and the Science CRT in grades 4, 8, and 10. The sessions are filled, and participants will receive confirmation letters for the May projects by April 16. Participants for the July projects will receive confirmation letters by May 16.

Sample Student Response Booklets

Andy Carlson, Test Coordinator in Havre, requested that sample CRT Student Response Booklets be placed online. Below are the links to the 2007 sample Student Response Booklets for grades 4-8 and 10. Grade 3 is a combination test booklet and Student Response Booklet. The link for grade 3 is to the 2006 released items for grade 3. Thanks Andy.

2006 Grade 3 Released Items

<http://www.opi.mt.gov/PDF/Assessment/CRT/RI/06/06Gr3CIR.pdf>

2007 CRT Complete Sample Student Response Booklet, Grade 4

http://www.opi.mt.gov/PDF/Assessment/CRT/TA/07SRB_Gr4.pdf

2007 CRT Complete Sample Student Response Booklet, Grade 5

http://www.opi.mt.gov/PDF/Assessment/CRT/TA/07SRB_Gr5.pdf

2007 CRT Complete Sample Student Response Booklet, Grade 6

http://www.opi.mt.gov/PDF/Assessment/CRT/TA/07SRB_Gr6.pdf

2007 CRT Complete Sample Student Response Booklet, Grade 7

http://www.opi.mt.gov/PDF/Assessment/CRT/TA/07SRB_Gr7.pdf




2007 CRT Complete Sample Student Response Booklet, Grade 8

http://www.opi.mt.gov/PDF/Assessment/CRT/TA/07SRB_Gr8.pdf

2007 CRT Complete Sample Student Response Booklet, Grade 10

http://www.opi.mt.gov/PDF/Assessment/CRT/TA/07SRB_Gr10.pdf

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